

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 9, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-19 and 21 were pending in this Application. Claim 20 was previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-8, 10, and 12-19 were rejected, and Claims 9, 11, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 8, 13, 15, 16 and 17 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claims 9, 11 and 21 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8, 10, and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,739,195 issued to James A. Evans et al. ("Evans et al.") in view of U.S. Patent 6,084,530 issued to Alex Pidwerbetsky et al. ("Pidwerbetsky et al.").

Examiner has indicated that Claims 9, 11 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that Independent Claims 1, 13, 15 and 16 have been Amended to include the limitations of previously submitted Claim 11; Independent Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of previously submitted Claim 13; and Independent Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of previously submitted Claim 21.

Applicants submit that Independent Claims 1, 8, 13, 15, 16 and 17 have now been placed in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration, withdrawal of the §103 rejections and full allowance of Independent Claims 1, 8, 13, 15, 16 and 17 and Claims 2-7, 10-12, 14 and 18-19 which depend therefrom.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 9, 11 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

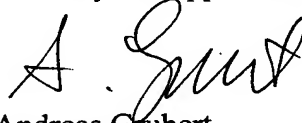
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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Andreas Grubert
Limited Recognition No. L0225
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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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